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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (original) A conjugate comprising two or more peptides or peptide fragments optionally linked to a backbone and the peptides or peptide fragments are spatially positioned relative to each other so that they together form a non-linear sequence which mimics the tertiary structure of one or more PrPSc-specific epitopes as evidenced by the test described herein.

Claim 2. (original) A conjugate comprising two or more peptides or peptide fragments optionally linked to a backbone and the peptides or peptide fragments are spatially positioned relative to each other so that they together form a non-linear sequence which mimics the tertiary structure of PrPSc and has the same or a higher degree of conformational sensitivity to PrPSc as one or more conformationally sensitive regions of prpc as evidenced by the test described herein.

Claim 3. (currently amended) A conjugate according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the peptides or peptide fragments comprise from 2 to 150 amino acids.

Claims 4-5. (cancelled)

Claim 6. (currently amended) A conjugate according to claim 1 any of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the two or more peptides or peptide fragments is a prion peptide or a prion peptide fragment.

Claim 7-8. (cancelled)

Claim 9. (currently amended) A conjugate according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the prion peptide or prion peptide fragment has a primary structure corresponding to a bovine PrP SEQ. ID No.1, a ovine PrP SEQ. ID No. 2, a human PrP SEQ. ID No. 3, or polymorphs or fragments thereof.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of claims 1-9, wherein the peptides or peptide fragments are selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID No. 4, SEQ. ID No. 5, SEQ. ID No. 6, SEQ. ID No. 7, SEQ. ID No.8, SEQ. ID No.9, SEQ. ID No. 10, SEQ. ID No.11, SEQ. ID No. 12 and SEQ. ID No. 13.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of claims 1-9, wherein the peptides or peptide fragments are selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID No. 14, SEQ. ID No. 15 and SEQ. ID No. 16.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of claims 1-9, wherein the peptides or peptide fragments are selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID No. 17, SEQ. ID No. 18, SEQ. ID No.1 9 and SEQ. ID No. 20.

Claim 13. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of claims 1-9, wherein the peptides or peptide fragments are selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID No. 21, SEQ. ID No. 22, SEQ. ID No. 23, SEQ. ID No. 24, SEQ. ID No. 25 and SEQ. ID No. 25 A-F.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of claims 1-9, wherein the peptides or peptide fragments have a sequence corresponding to SEQ. ID No. 26.

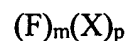
Claim 15. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of claims 1-9, wherein the peptides or peptide fragments are selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID No. 27, SEQ. ID No. 28, SEQ. ID No. 29, SEQ. ID No. 30, SEQ. ID No. 31, SEQ. ID No. 32, SEQ. ID No. 33, SEQ. ID No. 34, SEQ. ID No. 35, SEQ. ID No. 36, SEQ. ID No. 37, SEQ. ID No. 38, SEQ. ID No. 39, SEQ. ID No. 40, SEQ. ID No. 41, SEQ. ID No. 42, SEQ. ID No. 43 and SEQ. ID No. 44.

Claim 16. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of the preceding claims, wherein a β -strand inducing building block is introduced in the amino acid sequence of the peptides or peptide fragments.

Claim 17. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of the preceding claims, wherein at least two of the two or more peptides or peptide fragments have identical amino acid sequences.

Claim 18. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of the preceding claims wherein at least one of the two or more peptides or peptide fragments is a T-cell helper epitope.

Claim 19. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of the preceding claims which has the formula:



wherein F is independently the same or different prion peptide or prion peptide fragment;

X is the same or different amino acid residue or peptide;

m is an integer from 2 to 10 inclusive;

and p is an integer from 0 to 10 inclusive;

such that X and F together form a conjugate, provided that the resulting conjugate is not prion peptide or a prion peptide fragment.

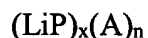
Claims 20-28. (cancelled)

Claim 29. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of the preceding claims, wherein a backbone is contained in the conjugate.

Claim 30. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 29~~ any of the preceding claims, wherein the backbone is a non-dendritic peptide backbone.

Claim 31. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 29~~ any of the preceding claims, wherein the backbone is a lipopeptide.

Claim 32. (original) A conjugate according to claim 31 wherein the backbone has the structure



wherein

A is an amino acid which may be the same or different and may contain one or more attachment points;

n is an integer from 2 to 150 such that $(\text{A})_n$ is a chain of amino acids which may be branched or linear;

Lip is a lipophilic moiety which is linked to A through a bond or a linker; and x is an integer from 1 to 10 such that 1-10, same or different, Lip could be joined to the backbone.

Claims 33-49. (cancelled)

Claim 50. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 29~~ any of the preceding claims, wherein the backbone has a structure selected from the group consisting of:

- a) *palm*-KVAKLEAKVAKLEAKVAKLEAKG
- b) *palm*-VACLEAKVACLEAKVACLEAKGKGKG
- c) *palm*-VAKLEAKVACLEAKVACKGKG
- d) *palm*-VAKLEAKVACLEAKVAKLEAKVAC
- e) KGGKRGGK-(*palm*)
- f) *palm*-VAKLEAKVACLEAKVACKG K G
- g) *palm*-VAKLEAKVACLEAKVAKLEAKVACKG KG
- h) *palm*-PrP
- i) *palm*-PrP fragment
- j) GSDYEDRYYK-(*palm*)
- k) YMLGSAMSRPK-(*palm*)

with the peptide side chains at one or more positions being optionally protected by protecting groups.

Claims 51-55. (cancelled)

Claim 56. (currently amended) A conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of claims 1-55 further comprising a marker.

Claims 57-64. (cancelled)

Claim 65. (currently amended) A method for the production of antibodies against PrP^{Sc}, the method comprising immunizing an animal with a conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of claims 1-64.

Claims 66-68. (cancelled)

Claim 69. (currently amended) An antibody against PrP^{Sc} obtainable by the method claimed in any of ~~claim 65~~ ~~claims 65-68~~.

Claims 70-71. (cancelled)

Claim 72. (currently amended) A method for detection of PrP^{Sc} in a sample comprising i) optionally, treating the sample with Proteinase K ii) contacting the sample with an antibody according to claim 69 ~~or 70~~ iii) detecting any PrP^{Sc} which is bound to the antibody.

Claims 73-78. (cancelled)

Claim 79. (original) A method for identifying PrP^{Sc} by means of a substance which undergoes conformational change when contacted with PrP^{Sc}, the method comprising i) incubation of the substance with PrP^{Sc} in a structure- relaxing solvent, ii) measuring any conformational change of the substance by conformation-specific antibodies or by detection of changes in the fluorescence of an environmentally sensitive fluorophore coupled to the substance.

Claim 80. (cancelled)

Claim 81. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ ~~any of claims 1-64~~.

Claim 82. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody according to ~~claim 69~~ ~~any of claims 69 or 70~~.

Claim 83. (currently amended) A vaccine composition comprising a conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of claims 1-64.

Claim 84. (currently amended) A vaccine composition comprising an antibody according to ~~claim 69~~ any of claims 69 or 70.

Claim 85. (currently amended) A method for treating and/or preventing Creutzfeldt-Jakobs disease, kuru, Gerstmann- Straussler-Sheinker disease, fatal familial insomnia and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle, scrapie in sheep, chronic wasting disease in deer and elk and transmissible encephalopathies in mink, cat and other animals, the method comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a conjugate according to ~~claim 1~~ any of claims 1-64.

Claim 86. (currently amended) A method for treating and/or preventing Creutzfeldt-Jakobs disease, kuru, Gerstmann-Straussler-Sheinker disease, fatal familial insomnia and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle, scrapie in sheep, chronic wasting disease in deer and elk and transmissible encephalopathies in mink, cat and other animals, the method comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of an antibody according to ~~claim 69~~ any of claims 69 or 70.